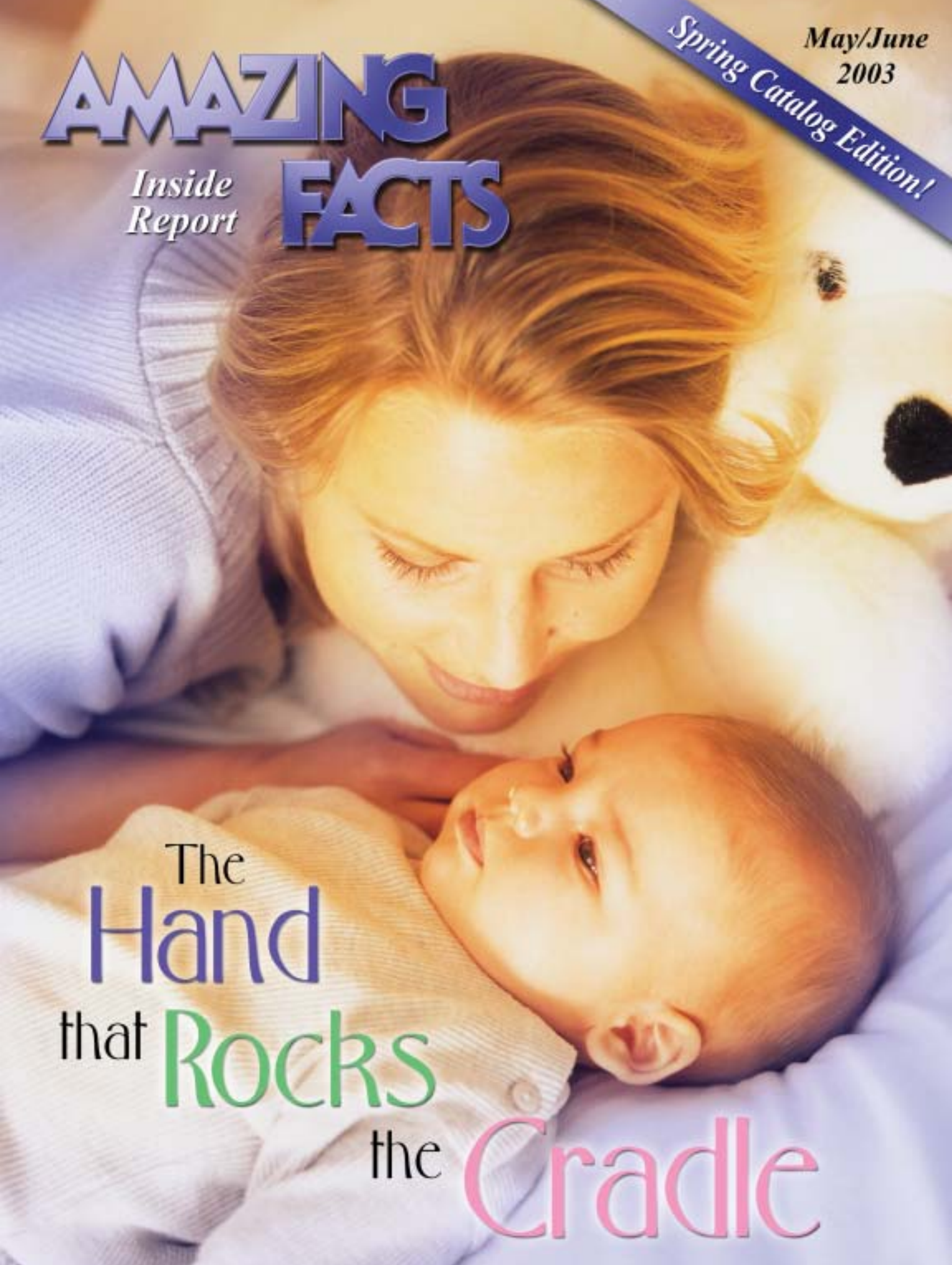


AMAZING FACTS

*Inside
Report*

May/June
2003
Spring Catalog Edition!

A close-up photograph of a woman with blonde hair looking down at a baby in a cradle. The woman's eyes are closed, and she has a gentle smile. The baby is lying in a cradle, looking up at the woman. The cradle is white and has a blue blanket. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color.

The
Hand
that Rocks
the Cradle

The Parable of the Signs

by Steven Winn



I stop at stop signs. Now, I'm not talking about this slow-down-glance-both-ways-and-roll-on-through kind of stop. I'm talking foot-on-the-brake-until-you-feel-that-little-lurch kind of stop. I've been stopping at stop signs all my life. My parents stopped at stop signs, as did their parents before them. Yes, I'm a fifth-generation stopper.

As an aspiring driver, and as all young drivers do, I wondered why my family stopped at stop signs. My parents told me it was because the little white car did and that it's important to drive like the little white car. In my weekly driver's education class, I learned that the best way to drive like the little white car was to spend a thoughtful hour each day reading its bumper stickers. All the drivers I knew had apparently seen this little white car, and it wasn't long before I heard the story of its terrible accident.

Apparently, the little white car used to drive around helping other cars in trouble. Overheated cars on the freeway, cars with flat tires on country roads—it didn't matter what kind of car or what part of town it fell victim, the little white car was there to help.

For some reason, a big black dump truck really had it in for the little white car and it conspired with the local towing company to eliminate it. The towing company was all too glad to go along with the plan because the little white car was taking away all its customers.

The big black dump truck finally got its chance and in a sickening display of unabated cruelty, it gunned its engine and repeatedly rammed the little white car, shattering the windshield, severely denting the doors, and scarring it with jagged streaks of black paint. The little white car was transported to the wrecking yard, where it was crushed into a tiny cube of twisted metal.

It appeared that the little white car was gone forever and that the big black dump truck had triumphed. However, on the third day of this horrific event, the little white car was miraculously restored by the best body-and-fender man known to mankind.

I considered this a very nice story, and I was convinced that the little white car existed, but I had all these stop signs ahead of me, so I spent my time perfecting my stopping ability.

The time came for me to buy my first car. I went to the dealer and he asked me if I was planning to stop at stop signs. I said yes and that I was already pretty good at it. He asked me if I agreed with the 26 other rules of the road. Of course I did. He then said, "Steven, because you like the little white car, you have now been entrusted with your own vehicle." And then with my friends and family looking on, he handed me the keys.

I had my own car—my own metallic-blue baby.

The good times rolled. Cruising down the freeway, watching the sun rise into a crystal clear sky, listening to my favorite music ... driving was fun! But I never forgot to stop at stop signs.

My friends, who had also recently purchased new cars, commented on some of the witty bumper stickers they had been reading on the little white car's back bumper. The little white car! Not wanting to say that I had never even seen it, I turned the conversation to stop signs.


Fasten your seatbelts for the turning point.

It all started with a red convertible. Beware of red convertibles; when the top goes down, engine temperature goes up. Driving to school one day, a red convertible passed me and I stepped on the gas and followed. I was too busy admiring the sleek lines and shiny wheels to notice that it was leading me in the wrong direction. My eyes glazed over, and I became a drool factory. My speedometer needle climbed quickly, and the only thing faster than my metallic-blue baby's velocity was my heartbeat.

My foot moved from the accelerator and hovered over the brake as a stop sign approached, but the red convertible sped on, and I really wanted to follow, so I hit the gas and the stop sign flashed by. Corner ahead ... too fast ... no control ... telephone pole ... *crunch*.

Coming to, I saw the red convertible driving away, not noticing that it had been loaded onto a big black dump truck. I suddenly had a vision of the little white car being rammed over and over.

Hunched over the steering wheel, my body started to shake with uncontrollable sobs as I saw for the first time that the jagged streaks on its pristine sides were not black, but metallic blue. Looking around, I expected to see a police car pull up to condemn me for running the stop sign. Instead I caught a glimpse of a little white car in my rear-view mirror. There it was, just like in the story, and it was there to help me. It took tear-blurred vision to finally see it clearly.

Stopping at stop signs is good. Buying a car is good. Not following red convertibles is good. But all these things take on an entirely new and wonderful meaning when you've seen the little white car. 



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Amazing Facts is a nonprofit Christian ministry that utilizes literature, radio, television, the Internet, and public evangelism to bring the saving truths of Jesus Christ to a lost world. For its operation, Amazing Facts depends on the gifts and prayers of concerned, like-minded Christians.

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A free, color catalog of materials sold by Amazing Facts is available on request. It contains information and prices on all books, videotapes, CDs, audiotapes, and other soul-winning materials available through the ministry.

For more information, please call Amazing Facts Monday through Thursday 9 A.M. to 6 P.M. Pacific.

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Thanks for the Reminder

Thank you for being faithful with my procrastination and not dropping me from your Bible studies. They have really been a blessing. I discovered other Bible lessons, but your insights came with a lot more detail, which is truly awesome. I also watch you on television, and they're powerful programs. I will keep your staff in my prayers. *J.H., New Jersey*

Wanting More

I'm an African-American woman who has been watching your program. I have come to the conclusion that you represent the true message of God. I really enjoy watching your program. My only regret is that the shows are only 30 minutes in length. I wish they were longer! *A.J., Texas*



God's End-Time Instrument

Keep up the great work of the Lord! Amazing Facts was instrumental in bringing us into the truth 34 years ago. We continue to be blessed by your vision and your commitment to scriptural integrity. Stand firm, and God bless each of you! *J.L., Michigan*

Bible School Kudos

God bless your wonderful outreach program, and thank you for all your volunteers. Your course has changed our lives! *S.K., Australia*



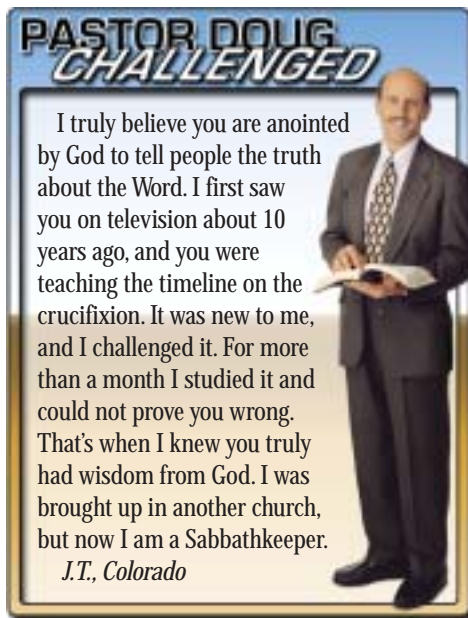
Editor's Note: See page 27 for more great testimonies about our Bible School ministry.

Bearded Batchelor

Thank you for your amazing insights during the *Central Study Hour*. I love going over lessons with Pastor Doug. I also like the beard—nothing “sinister minister” about it.

God bless you all, and thank you again for your wonderful ministry. My husband does not listen to much in the way of sermons, but he does like Pastor Doug. He even read *The Richest Caveman* too. I have great faith that he will answer God's call. I just pray that I don't let him or Jesus down in my walk with Him or in the example of my life. *C.G., e-mail*

Editor's Note: We'll also be praying for you ... but we regret to inform you that by press time, Pastor Doug's beard was history.



I truly believe you are anointed by God to tell people the truth about the Word. I first saw you on television about 10 years ago, and you were teaching the timeline on the crucifixion. It was new to me, and I challenged it. For more than a month I studied it and could not prove you wrong. That's when I knew you truly had wisdom from God. I was brought up in another church, but now I am a Sabbathkeeper. *J.T., Colorado*

Saving Some Time

We have been watching your Sabbath school program for some time, as it is a long way to church in our area. We watch you on 3ABN almost every Sabbath. Thanks for the wonderful program and the great teachers. *H.F., e-mail*

Remembering Joe Crews

Every time I see Amazing Facts materials, I always think of Joe. He had such a profound influence on my life. May God continue to bless your work. *J.W., California*



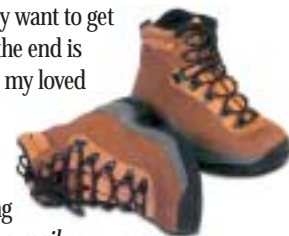
I love and thank God for the beautiful steadfastness of Amazing Facts and the way all of you, by God's instruction, so successfully help others with their understanding of His Word. I loved Joe and his simple, interesting way of presenting Bible truths, and I'm glad that Pastor Doug is doing so well also. Stay close to Him! *W., California*

New in Christ

I want to thank you for the spiritual help you have given me. A friend gave me a copy of the *Panorama of Prophecy*, which I really enjoyed. Later, another friend loaned us *Millennium of Prophecy*, which I have been watching daily. I am new in Jesus, a convert from Rastafarianism, and your materials have been a real blessing and have helped answered a lot of unanswered questions for my fiancé and me. *J.J., Minnesota*

Getting Back on the Path

I watched your show on television, and I was truly amazed and impressed. I need these teachings! My family and I have strayed from God's path, and I desperately want to get back on. I know that the end is near, and I don't want my loved ones or me to be left behind. Please send me your catalog so that I may start getting these teachings. *S.M., e-mail*



Coinciding With the Word

I have watched your program several times now and have liked what I heard because it coincides with what I read in the Bible. It's reassuring to hear sermons that have the biblical perspective of the tribulations and Christ's second-coming. Thank you for your clarity in the Word. *J.J., Oklahoma*

Inside Report welcomes all correspondence regarding the magazine and other Amazing Facts ministries. Letters and other materials sent to Amazing Facts become the ministry's property and may be used—in whole or in part and edited for content, grammar, and readability—in future publications unless otherwise requested by the submitter. We thank you for your thoughts, suggestions, and financial and prayer support in our endeavor to reach others for Jesus and equip them to do likewise.

The Charitable Remainder Trust

A Tax Free Sale!

George and Karen Reed* were 55 when they purchased development land on the edge of their town. They thought it would be a good investment they could later sell for a profit.

Over the past 15 years, they have cut and sold some timber off the land, leased the land to a rancher, and have recently rented the property to a large, adjacent commercial store for its overflow parking. They've made a modest income each time.

"It had been a good investment, increasing in value," says George. "However, we were ready to sell."

Karen adds, "We were hoping we could sell the land without paying a large prohibitive tax. Our accountant said we would have to pay a 20 percent capital gains tax on all of its appreciated value. We knew we could use some tax breaks and deductions to help with our overall investment return."

George and Karen soon found out from Amazing Facts that they could use a special kind of trust to receive four excellent benefits upon the sale of their land. Those benefits are:

- 1 Bypass all capital gains tax
- 2 Increase their present and future income
- 3 Receive a large charitable income-tax deduction
- 4 Fulfill their charitable intent



"We are delighted with our Charitable Remainder Trust," exclaims George. "With it we saved over \$100,000 in capital gains tax and \$55,000 in income tax. That's over \$155,000 in tax savings!"

"Plus we increased our income," says Karen. "The land produced only enough income to pay our taxes, but now we receive over \$36,000 income each year. This increased income is one of my favorite parts of the plan!" **The Reeds discovered a win-win situation by partnering with Amazing Facts in the sale of their property.**

The Charitable Remainder Trust applies to any appreciated asset, such as businesses, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and real estate. It is part of the wise stewardship planning that will help share the three angels' messages for these end times. Together, with you, we are helping others find hope and a new life in Christ our Savior.

If you would like illustrated information on a plan like this, please call John Bridges, Planned Giving Director, at 800-436-2695, ext. 3005.

*For confidentiality, their real names have not been used.

The Hand that Rocks the Cradle

By Pastor Doug Batchelor



An Amazing Fact: One cold winter in South Wales, a mother was traveling cross-country with her young babe and was caught in a blinding blizzard. The following day, upon learning she never reached her destination, a group of men went out searching for her. They soon spotted a large mound of snow in the road she was known to have traveled. They quickly swept away the white powder and found the frozen body of the barely dressed woman. In her arms was a bundle of clothing, which they unwrapped to reveal her baby—alive.

In the struggle of the snowstorm, the woman had taken off most of her clothing and wrapped it around the little boy to keep him alive. She knew that she would perish, but that the baby might survive. The baby was David Lloyd George, who lived on to become the celebrated Prime Minister of Britain during World War I. One of the reasons he achieved such greatness is that he never forgot about his mother's love and sacrifice.

It's Natural

God has infused into mothers the natural desire to protect their offspring even at the peril of their own lives. The Creator has pre-wired this sacrificial nature not just into human mothers, but also in the animal kingdom. In the mountains of Northern California, we have a lot of black bears that are generally harmless. On the few occasions when black bears have attacked humans, it's usually because someone came

between a mother and her cubs. I even once heard of a car being ripped apart by a mother bear because her cub was trapped inside when a well-meaning camper tried to take it home. As the Bible says, "I will meet them like a bear deprived of her cubs; I will tear open their rib cage" (Hosea 13:8 NKJV).

All through the Bible, we see examples of a mother's love and sacrifice. And this natural love, combined with the influence of a godly mother, has changed history on many occasions. Mothers must recognize the profound power they have in molding human souls, not only for the difference they will make in this life, but also to prepare them for eternity. As it is often said, "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world."

A Sensitive Subject

I've learned that the subject of mothers can stir up a whole potluck of emotions, bringing warm memories for some and sadness to others. You might be a mother who has lost a child, or you might be a child who grew up without knowing your mother. You might even be a woman who wants to have a child, but for some reason cannot. Mother's Day might be a bittersweet holiday for some to celebrate.

Yet the position of mother is the greatest natural office the Creator has passed to His creatures. It is the most important and challenging responsibility in the world—and one deserving of great honor and, therefore, our consideration.

A Mother of Renown

One of the more prominent mothers in the Bible was the slave Jochabed, whose name means "Yahweh's glory." Even as a slave, she demonstrated immense faith in God regarding her maternal duties.

When she became pregnant with Moses, she already had a son, Aaron, and a daughter, Miriam. The king of Egypt, fearing a rebellion would rise from the expanding population of the Hebrew slaves, legislated that all new male babies be thrown into the river. Jochabed could have used this law as a desperate excuse for "birth control" to reduce the number of hungry mouths to feed. But the Bible says, "When she saw it was a beautiful child," her heart yearned for Moses. Instead, she hid him for three months until there came a time when she could no longer conceal him nor stifle his crying. So she lovingly wove a tiny basket "ark" and tenderly placed her human treasure within. She then floated it down the river and prayed that some Egyptian might find the abandoned, whimpering babe and have merciful pity.

In His great providence, God designed this very thing. Miriam watched from a distance as a kindly princess lovingly plucked up the crying baby. Miriam approached to ask if she might find a maid to nurse the child for the Egyptian aristocrat. Ironically, Jochabed is



employed to nurse her own baby! The mother has just a few more years to shape his character knowing that a pagan Egyptian princess would soon take the baby for her own.

What would you do? How much could you teach your child in that short time? Evidently, the lessons that Moses learned at the knee of his mother during those brief years were so indelibly impressed on his soul that he never forgot who he was or his people. And most important, he never forgot that God had a supreme plan for his life. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6).

I also imagine that Jochabed spent the next 40 years praying for her child—that those seeds she helped plant would bear tremendous fruit. They did. The Bible records in Hebrews 11:25 that Moses chose "rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season." He first learned this principle at his mother's knee. She was willing to stay with him as long as possible to bring him up in the way of the Lord. And Moses' influence over religion, laws, and life today are perhaps second only to Jesus'. Of course, ultimately God gets the glory, but it was also the hand that rocked Moses' cradle.

It Takes a Mother

This is a very important story because we live in a time when pure motherhood is often scoffed and belittled. This applies particularly to a mother who stays at home with her children. It's as if society today thinks motherhood is an antiquated tradition, and that being only a mother is derogatory.

Someone once said, "It takes a village to raise a child." I categorically reject that. It might sound nice and reassuring to think the whole herd is watching out for everyone's children. But I strongly believe that we have so much crime and decadence in our world because this "village" is really a deceitful euphemism for the streets. It doesn't take a village to raise the child; it takes a mother.

Families are letting everybody else raise their children. They're told to take even their youngest to the local daycare for an entire day. Of course, I'm not criticizing those who truly must—the Lord knows that I am very grateful for occasional babysitters. But this is not God's ideal plan. Kids aren't supposed to be raised in strange groups, nor are they to be surrendered to the "village."

They need the mother's personal one-on-one attention because for the first few years of a child's life, the mother represents God. Instead of trying to find others to raise our children, we all need to pray that God will give mothers the grace to reflect and reproduce within them a reverence for the Creator.

This is how Jochabed used her influence to make a difference for eternity.

I love this quote:
"To a very great

extent the mother holds in her own hands the destiny of her children. She is dealing with developing minds and characters, working not alone for time, but for eternity. She is sowing seed that will spring up and bear fruit, either for good or for evil" (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, 244).

What is a mother's ultimate goal in raising children? Their comfort? Their happiness? Today we are told to indulge our children, so that they are always happy and entertained. Though popular, this is the wrong approach. Mothers must raise their children so that they might be Christians and be prepared for eternity. In this way, the work of the mother cannot be underestimated.

The Burden of Motherhood

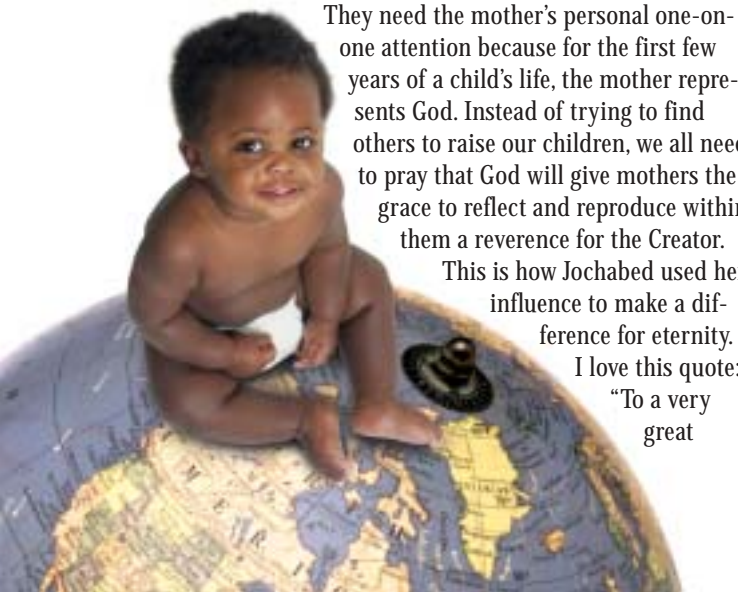
Because some have mistakenly deified the mother of Jesus, many avoid granting Mary the credit due her in rearing the world's Redeemer. Her name is the Greek equivalent of Miriam, which means "bitter." However, it doesn't mean that Mary was a bitter person. Quite the contrary, she was favored by God. Rather, it meant that her lot as a mother would have some bitter sorrow. When Mary and Joseph took Christ to be dedicated in the temple, Simeon said, "Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed" (Luke 2:35). Mary's heart was pierced through when she saw her son hanging on the cross.

Mary had a tough row to hoe. She was pregnant before her marriage and rode 70 miles on the back of a donkey before going into labor. She delivered her child in a crude stable and then was soon displaced to Egypt. She also probably didn't always understand why her unique child said and did the things He did.

Mary watched her son suffer and die, and she attended His burial. My grandmother told me, "It's terrible to bury your spouse, but it's especially difficult to bury your children." And sadly, Jesus was probably Mary's only child. One way we know this is because while on the cross, Jesus committed the care of His mother to the apostle John when normally she would have been taken into the home of the oldest son. Jesus' brothers and sisters were most likely half-siblings (Matthew 13:55, 56). Furthermore, it would have been very unlikely for the oldest brother to leave the family business and become an itinerate preacher.

I also don't think Mary fully understood that Jesus would be a sacrifice. But she did know, by an angel's promise, that this child was not fully hers. Instead, He would be "the Son of the Highest" (Luke 1:32).

Christ was naturally vested with some of His Father's attributes by virtue of being His Son, a mystery we can never fully understand. Still, the Lord committed Him to the care of a human mother for His raising and training. The Bible even says that He was subject to His



parents. Now talk about having a big responsibility! Can you understand why Mary was wringing her hands when they lost track of Jesus for three days? She must have thought, "I was given the Son of God, and I don't know where I put Him!" The Bible records her as saying, "I have sought thee sorrowing" (Luke 2:48).

Should a mother's attitude about raising children today be any less committed than Mary's? All children are a gift from God, so all mothers should be raising them for a great work—that they might reflect the image of God. They are raising their children for eternity! The work that God gave to Mary He has also given to every mother—that they might raise their children for the infinite glory of God. That's a big responsibility and challenge. But God has given some great examples of mothers to follow.

Suzanna Wesley: A Mother for Today

I read a book about the extraordinary Suzanna Wesley that moved me to tears. In brief, she was a godly woman who managed to have 19 children in 21 years. Karen, my wife, got out her calculator to see how many years of pregnancy that meant: it's more than 14—and I don't want to know how many years of diaper changing that is!

Suzanna was born the youngest of 11 children of a minister, and she was brilliant. In an era and place where few women read, she became a prolific reader. And by 13, she was participating with her father in debating heated theological issues with church leaders. Like Jesus in the temple, she engaged these intelligent leaders with her grasping mind, and they invited her back because she added so much to their conversations.

Yet by far, her impact as a mother is more profound than anything else she accomplished. I don't

think she'd mind that statement.

Her influence as a Christian mother spawned some of the greatest Christian leaders and reformers. John

Wesley wrote her the following: "So many people have asked about how you managed to raise children who for the most part were all godly Christians."

By today's standards, she was strict.

But she had 19 kids. So I wanted to share some of the rules by which she mothered. Perhaps you mothers (and fathers) will welcome some great advice from a mother whose children are the best evidence for her effectiveness.

Rules, Rules, Rules

A great rule to harness to help avoid spoiling children is not to give them anything because they cry for it. I've seen the nightmare at grocery store check out stands, and it should never happen. Nor did Mrs. Wesley let her children cry loudly. If they did, they received additional punishment to what caused them to cry in the first place. People who visited her home said they never knew a child was home because there was no shouting and screaming. All homes should have that kind of quiet calm.

Another rule she employed was that children would not eat between meals. I also follow this important rule because it helps control the appetite. Many children today are overweight, and one reason is that they eat too much between meals.

She also regulated the children's rest and sleep. Young children were given naps in the morning and in the afternoon. This was shortened as they grew, until eventually they worked all day either at school or doing chores without naps. And sleep time was punctual. John Wesley attributed his long life and productive work schedule to his ability to sleep on command, which he learned from his mother.

The children were also required to address their mother with respect at all times. At the dinner table, they were to eat and drink everything before them and they were always to say "please." The commandment to honor one's father and mother should be as revered as the Sabbath and other commandments. Children in the Bible were stoned for dishonoring their mothers, but today they seem to have a free pass. (Not that I advocate stoning today!)

Suzanna also never scolded her children. She always explained the reasons and principles behind what she asked them to do. When she told them to do something, they were to do it immediately—and then they could ask questions later. But they were to first obey without question. It is acceptable for kids to question their mothers, but not until they've obeyed. Otherwise, a mom could say, "Get out of the street!" And the child might answer, "Well, why should I get out of the street?" as the car is about to hit them.

Finally, as soon as her children heard her wishes and did not obey, there were immediate consequences. I get irritated when a parent says, "I'm going to count to 30!" They're just training the child to wait 30 seconds before obeying.

Of course, there's much more to mothering than these rules, but one of the modern era's best mothers used these principles to guide her children. And her children have been instrumental in reaching others for Christ.



God Knows a Mother's Heart

Eric Fromme comments, "The mother/child relationship is paradoxical. In a sense, it's tragic. It requires the most intense love on the mother's side and yet this very love must help the child grow away from the mother and become fully independent." A mother is loving and teaches a child so that he or she can go out in the world and be successful and independent away from that same love. That's the way it works in this sin-spoiled world.

"Jesus knows the burden of every mother's heart. He who had a mother that struggled with poverty and privation sympathizes with every mother in her labors. He who made a long journey in order to relieve the anxious heart of a Canaanite woman will do as much for the mothers of today. He who gave back to the widow of Nain her only son, and who in His agony upon the cross remembered His own mother, is touched today by the mother's sorrow" (*The Desire of Ages*, 512).

Indeed, God has taken on these qualities of motherhood in the Bible. *El Shaddai* is translated as God Almighty, but the picture translation of the Hebrew is "the many-breasted one." This describes the ability for a mother to provide all the needs for her children, and God takes the name for Himself.

We often try to peg a sexual gender on God, and He is our Father in heaven. But it also describes Jesus weeping over Jerusalem. "How often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings" (Matthew 23:37). You've heard the story of the firefighter inspecting a section of scorched woods who turned over a burned quail to reveal her living offspring. She shielded them from a fire under her wings, just as Jesus has shielded us from the everlasting fire.

Hope for Mothers

One of the most important lessons for a mother to teach her children is that she loves them. A child also needs to learn self-control, for children will not succeed at anything if they fail this lesson. Mothers must teach this through example by word and principle. Albert Schweitzer said, "There are three ways you teach your children: Example, example, and example."

Christ has shown us that He loves us, and He has been our best example, so He knows the difficulty of being a mother. He understands like no one else, so mothers should not be afraid to take their sorrows and joys to Jesus.

In that same passage about mothers I quoted earlier, the author adds, "In every grief, in every need, He will give comfort and help. Let mothers come to Jesus with their perplexities. They'll find grace sufficient to aid them in management of their children. The gates are open for every mother who would lay her burden at the Savior's feet. He who said, 'Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not,' still invites the mothers to lead up their little ones to be blessed by Him. Even the babe in its mother's arms may dwell as under the shadow of the Almighty through the faith of the praying mother. John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Spirit from his birth. If we will live in communion with God, we too may expect the divine Spirit to mold our little ones, even from their earliest moments."

Mothers yearning for their children who have gone astray or with children who are in need of the Lord's healing have Him to turn to.

What mothers can't do after their children leave home they can do by their influence—a mother's example and her prayers.

Isaiah 49:15 asks, "Can a woman forget her nursing child, And not have compassion on the son of her womb?" (NKJV). The strongest earthly tie is that of a mother for her baby. Despite this, there are rare, unnatural occasions where even mothers forget. Some have abandoned or aborted their babies. Yes, others have even killed their children. But God will not forget you or your baby.

"But I will not forget you," the Lord says. "I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands." In Romans 8: 38, 39, Paul says, "For I'm persuaded," speaking of the love of God, "that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Think about the strong love that a mother has for a baby, and wonder in amazement as God says, "I love you infinitely more than a mother loves her child."

Only Two Hands

Motherhood today is not appreciated as it should be. I once read a church sign that said, "If evolution is true, how come mothers still have only two hands?"

Being a mother is a very difficult job, but it is the most important one. I'm glad that God made mothers. I'm not sure I could do the job, but that's why He chose my wife—why He chose you or your wife to do the job. We must respect and support the office of mother, and obey the fifth commandment in the letter and the spirit.

I want you to know that the staff of Amazing Facts is praying for the mothers of the world, especially in this age of fear and uncertainty. If we can pray for a specific need for you as a mother, or even the spouse of a mother, please call or write us today. —



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Witnessing Corner

Here's what ministry friends are doing around the country to spread God's end-time message in these last days...

Reaching Muslims Worldwide

Dr. Ken Oster, author of *Islam Reconsidered*, possesses an understanding of

Islam that can come only from a deeply intimate relationship with her people. He has lived and worked among Muslims in various nations for more than 50 years, collecting wisdom that would benefit any Christian searching for a way to share Christ with Muslim friends.

His great admiration and respect for these precious people led him to follow in the footsteps of his parents, who were the first Sabbathkeeping Christian missionaries in Iran. He began his own work for the Lord as the director of Voice of Prophecy, where he also served as an evangelist and departmental secretary in Iran. He's also held prominent positions in various Middle East Bible institutions, and in 1971, he traveled with Thrust for Evangelism Among Muslims to work bringing the light of Jesus to the Muslim world.

Though retired, Ken Oster continues diligently in his quest to reach Muslims and educate Christians about the world's largest harvest field. "Even though I am retired, I refuse to sit down and twiddle my thumbs," he says. "I've got to do something profitable."

As part of his important work, Dr. Oster has translated all 24 lessons of the *Storacles of Prophecy* into Farsi, the language of Iran. Amazing Facts is now making plans to print and distribute these lessons to reach Farsi-speaking people. We will also make them available on our website so that churches and individuals can make copies and distribute to this community as well.

Amazingly, that work can begin right here at home. "There are over 2 million Farsi-speaking people in the United States," Dr. Oster explains. "They left Iran because of its forced religion and settled in this country. For instance, in Los Angeles, many stores now have signs in Farsi."

We want to extend our thanks to friends like Ken Oster, who sacrifice their own time and resources to make Amazing Facts materials available to everyone. We hope that many more friends will hear God's call and help spread the gospel to the entire world as His return quickly approaches.

Dr. Oster continues to get the message into Iran, even though he has recently been denied access to his beloved home of 50 years. He is able to transmit the message of Jesus into Iran with his own radio ministry. "I hope at least that my voice can get through if my person can't. My main reason is to get the message out by any means possible."

He also continues to write publications about Islam and the duty of Christian Sabbathkeepers to reach out to the people of Islam. He's now busy writing "Blessings of God," a 20-lesson study on how the Koran, Old Testament, and New Testament agree on many subjects. Please pray for His efforts and that the Lord will use them to reach the people of Islam. "It will be no good," he says, "until God adds His blessings to it."

Kyle and Julie have more than 200 Bible students in their den!



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Winsome Witnessing

by Gary Gibbs



An Inside Report exclusive first-look at Gary Gibbs' Winsome Witnessing.

Chapter 1 Taming Your Nerves

A fearful realization engulfed me as I stood on the corner looking at the long row of houses stretching down the street. I didn't have a clue as to what to say at the first door! As a baby Christian, I was convicted to sell Christian books. Here I was on my first day on the job with my product in hand. What was I supposed to do now? What if they had questions I couldn't answer? What if they didn't want me there? A thousand "what ifs" tortured my mind. I sat on that street corner for over two hours before I settled my nerves enough to knock on the first door. The experience lurking there confirmed all my anxieties. They treated me like I was a poor refugee trying to move into their neighborhood. So I went to the next door. There I found the same depressing "un" welcome. Door after door slammed in my face. I couldn't even *give* the books away. As one elderly lady made her quick retreat inside, she swept my free book aside knocking it to the ground. Before I even made it half way down the street I decided to go home.

But I didn't give up. I found a friend who used to sell books. The next week I gave it another try this time with John's reinforcement at my side. He worked really hard to impress me. At the first home an innocent enough looking man opened the door wide. John introduced us, "Hi, my name is John and this is Gary. We are visiting people in the neighborhood and showing them ways to prevent juvenile delinquency. May we come in?" Without a moment's hesitation, John quickly ducked past the unsuspecting chap, sprinted over to his living room sofa and promptly sat down with a big grin on his face. He had shown me how to get in. Fortunately for us, the shocked victim of our home invasion looked at me and with resignation said, "Well, I guess you might as well come in too." While I didn't adopt all the clever practices I learned that day, I did discover ways to visit in homes. And this led to one of the most exciting discoveries of my early Christian experience. There are people all around us looking and praying for God to send someone to teach them His truth.

On my very first day as a Bible instructor, I drove up to an apartment complex to visit Peggy. I had a card indicating she had received *Signs* magazine at one time. Since the apartments were not num-

bered I had to ask a man working on his car if he knew where Peggy lived. It turned out the shade tree mechanic, David, was her husband. We went into their home and I told them I had some fascinating Bible studies that might interest them. David acted absolutely astonished. He told me he had recently given his heart to God. For months he painstakingly visited church after church looking for one that truly followed the Bible. That very Sunday he gave up on his elusive search. He told God, "I can't find your church. If you want to lead me to your people you're going to have to send them to me." Bang! Just like that I was there the next day. David and Peggy turned out to be excellent Bible students with many questions. At the end of our studies together they both were baptized.

The very word *witnessing* strikes terror in the hearts of believers and non-believers alike. Mention it in a crowd of Christians and they freeze up. They get a look I've seen in the face of possums caught in my headlights on a dark country road. Possums are ugly enough in the bright daylight. Worse still, any time of day, is the look on the face of a terrified Christian cornered by the personal ministries leader on outreach Sabbath. It's not a pretty sight. Feelings of inadequacy, lack of knowledge, fear of failure and a host of negative thoughts paralyze them. Most succumb to these demons of doubt instead of conquering them. But faith can sweep fear aside and free us to feel the Spirit of God flowing into our lives, enabling us to do things we only dreamt about. Perhaps the reason we don't experience more of God's power is because we live too safely. What would happen if we ventured out of our comfort zones and trusted God?

Some friends and I once gave Bible studies to Bob. I was new at this and had only a few feeble lessons prepared in advance. After a couple of studies, God began to change Bob's heart. His fellow employees noticed he was more patient and questioned him about it. One co-worker was especially interested. Bob began sharing our studies with him. Bob received a new study one week from us and the following week he presented it to his co-worker. Bob was never more than one simple study ahead of *his* student. When the day arrived for Bob's baptism, he had the heavenly joy of knowing that in the neighboring town, his co-worker was also being baptized.

The number one fear of witnessing that grips many is the feeling that their Bible knowledge is only at the kindergarten level. They feel unprepared unless that knowledge is at a Ph.D. level. If this is your concern, remember Bob. To lead someone else to Jesus you only need to be one baby step ahead of them. You certainly don't need to be able to recite the entire Hebrew and Greek text. When was the last time that you heard a truly interesting sermon using that stuff anyway? It is enough to begin with the little information you do possess.

Too many are waiting for a wealth of knowledge they will never realize until they go out and share the pittance they have. "He who begins with a *little knowledge*, in a humble way, and *tells what he knows*, while seeking diligently for further knowledge, will find the whole heavenly treasure awaiting his demand. *The more he seeks to impart light, the*

more light he will receive. The more one tries to explain the Word of God to others, with a love for souls, *the plainer it becomes to himself.* The more we use our knowledge and exercise our powers, the more knowledge and power we shall have" (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 354; all emphasis supplied unless otherwise noted).

This is a powerful promise! The key to getting more knowledge is to give away what you have. The little lad with two fish and five barley loaves gave all he had to Jesus and found himself sitting ringside at the greatest show on earth. What if he had rationalized that his food was much too small to take care of the hungry masses? Many would have missed the blessing of a mammoth miracle. I wonder how many miracles we miss because we listen to our fears.

There is nothing better calculated to teach us the truth than for us to instruct someone else. As I witness to people and give studies, God gives me insights and makes truth clearer to my own mind than at any other time. There are occasions when the new ideas are so compelling, I actually take notes so I won't forget the points. If you want to know your Bible and feel the joy of being used by God, don't give in to Satan's nagging temptation to look at your own inadequacy. Allow faith to tame your jittery nerves and then step back to watch God work exciting miracles in your life as you become a "winsome witness."

Chapter 7 Divine Appointments

During my early morning devotions, I was thinking about the people who were part of a health club I had joined. I prayed, "Lord, You know one reason I joined this club is so I can find lost souls for You. I have had a few opportunities to witness, but nothing has developed into a serious interest. Is there someone I am missing? If so, could You bring them to my attention?"

Later that morning, I went to the gym to work out. After an hour of grueling sweat I grabbed my gym bag and began to walk out the door, looking forward to a refreshing shower at home. "Mr. Gibbs," I heard someone call my name. I stopped and turned around to see the young lady who worked behind the counter. "I wonder what she wants," I thought. "Can I ask you a question?" she asked. "You're a minister, aren't you?" "Yes I am," I said, pondering what was coming next. "My husband and I are looking for a church," she continued. "Which one do you speak at? We'd like to attend." This sudden answer to prayer almost knocked me off my feet. I can only imagine God smiling at my utter shock at this dramatic turn of events. Perhaps He had been patiently waiting for me to ask for His help for a long time and was anxious to get started as soon as I prayed.

On another occasion I prayed, "God, if there is someone You want me to speak to today, please make it obvious." A few hours later I was reading a booklet on the second coming while flying home on a mostly empty 747. An inquisitive stewardess had time to make small talk and asked me what I was reading. When I told her, she surprised me with saying, "I'm interested in Bible prophecy too."

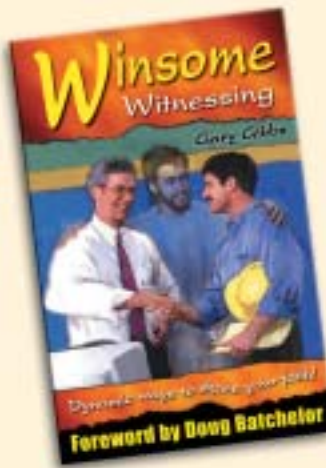
My automatic response was to turn the little book over and write

my name and address on the back. Handing it to her, I offered, "If you find this interesting and would like more information feel free to write me at this address."

She graciously thanked me and returned to the back of the plane for the rest of the flight. In about sixty minutes the vibrant young woman reappeared at my side, bubbling over with excitement. Kneeling in the aisle, she enthusiastically exclaimed, "I've read this entire book and agree with everything in it! Here is my address. Please send me anything you have." It was another remarkable divine appointment that God delighted to give me. I sat in my seat completely awestruck by His love for lost souls and the power of prayer.

God's passion for saving the lost is awesome. Why else does He go to such great lengths to reach sinners? When Jesus entered Jericho He walked up to a sycamore tree and called the name of the man who had climbed it only minutes before. Even though He had never met Zaccheus, Jesus knew him by name and understood the yearning of his inner most being. This was a divine appointment arranged by the Holy Spirit (Luke 19:1-5).

God will also give you thrilling divine appointments as we seek the lost. Here is an exciting assignment. Begin praying each morning for God to bring to your attention people who are interested in spiritual things. When He answers your prayer, take it as a sign God is showing you His passion for the lost and His power to hear your petitions on their behalf. Then ... share your testimony and enthusiastically offer Bible studies. Pray this each day until it happens. Then continue to pray for new appointments. —



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Winsome Witnessing is
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BK-WW ... \$10.95

See page 18 for
ordering information.

Amazing Facts EVANGELISM TEAM



You are invited to meet the members of Amazing Facts evangelism team at any one of the following locations. This schedule is subject to change without notice, so please call Amazing Facts to confirm appointments or get more information.



Doug Batchelor



Gary Gibbs



John Bradshaw



Rich Cavaness



Byron Corbett



Eric Flickinger



Lowell Hargreaves



Brian McMahon



David Morgan



Jason Morgan



Rawel Moringlane



Jack Pefley



Dennis Priebe

Doug Batchelor

Camp Meetings

May 27, 28
Forest Lake Academy
Orlando, Florida

May 30, 31
Southern University
Collegedale, Tennessee

June 19 – 21
Shenandoah Valley Academy
New Market, Virginia

June 27, 28
Great Lakes Academy
Cedar Lake, Michigan

Special TV Appearance
June 26 at 6:00 p.m. Pacific
3ABN Live
Dish Network Sky Angel
channel 9710

John Bradshaw

April 25 – May 31
Sunset Oaks Church
3500 Sunset Boulevard
Rocklin, California

Byron Corbett

April 11 – May 17
Salt Lake Community College
West Jordan Campus
3400 West 9000
West Jordan, Utah

Eric Flickinger

April 4 – May 10
Ramada Inn East
1355 Eastern Boulevard
Montgomery, Alabama

Lowell Hargreaves

April 11 – May 17
Oaklawn Community Center
4001 West Oaklawn Drive
Springdale, Arkansas

Brian McMahon

April 25 – May 24
Victoria Hall
33 West Victoria Street
Santa Barbara, California

David Morgan

April 4 – May 10
Mill Stream Inn
918 East Second Street
Coudersport, Pennsylvania

May 16 – June 21
West Helena, Arkansas
Call 870-572-9141 for details

Rawel Moringlane

April 4 – May 10
Grand Rapids High School
Community Room
800 Conifer Drive
Grand Rapids, Minnesota

May 16 – June 24
Lompoc, California
Call 805-736-1905 for details

Jack Pefley

April 25 – May 23
Julius C. Wilkie Steamboat Center
Levee Park
Winona, Minnesota

Dennis Priebe

June 6 – 7:
Middleton Church, Idaho
June 20 – 21:
Kamiah Church, Idaho
June 28:
Inchelium Mission Church,
Washington

Mike Troxell

July 11 – August 9
Los Lunas, New Mexico

PLEASE NOTE: If you would like to schedule an Amazing Facts evangelistic series or a weekend of revival meetings in your church, please contact the evangelism department at Amazing Facts by phone at 916-434-3880 or by mail.

A Father's Joy



My family had been waiting for construction to be completed on our new house, but we were meeting with delay after delay, which forced us to finally rent an apartment. The same day we moved into our apartment, I went to the mailbox and found a flyer in the mailbox for an Amazing Facts seminar, which I have kept as a souvenir. Being in a new town, having an interest in prophecy, and wanting to find a church nearby for my family, I was very curious.

Initially I felt overwhelmed, not only with the number of people in attendance, but also with the fact that those running this seminar actually looked you in the eye and said with certainty, "Nice to meet you." We instantly felt relaxed and decided to continue attending the seminars. I used the flyer to research the guest speaker (John Bradshaw) and also found the website for Amazing Facts. I also started doing the online series of Study Guides at their website.

On the second night of the meetings, John came up and shook my hand and introduced himself. We started talking about the seminar, and when John learned I was having difficulty with transportation, he immediately found people who helped take me home and even pick me up to bring me when necessary. My son Alexander, who was 11 at the time, enjoyed the seminars so much that he started doing the handout studies with me at home and actually borrowed a Bible from the seminar.

By the time the seminar was over, it was like a veil had been lifted from my eyes and instantly I was aware of what I had to do—I wanted to be baptized. It was interesting to me that the same day I made this decision, Pastor Bradshaw offered an invitation to those wishing to be baptized that evening. Even more exciting, my son asked on his own to be baptized. After talking his decision through with him, there was no doubt in my mind—or his—that he was ready.

My son and I were baptized together. It was a day I will remember always, creating a special bond between us that can never be broken.

We continue to attend church regularly and have even set aside time to study the Bible together. We are both in our Christian youth camping group, which has worked out great since they needed someone who knows how to lead marching and ceremonies. And to my own personal joy and amazement, my son told me the other day he wants to be a pastor. He has also been volunteering to be in church projects and bringing his friends to church!

Probably the best gift ever God could give me was an understanding of His Word. Second would be the strength to follow it daily. I thank John Bradshaw and the Amazing Facts seminar for getting it started!

As told to Inside Report by Leonard Dubois, who was baptized at John Bradshaw's prophecy seminar in El Centro, California.

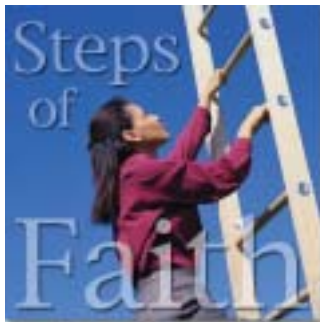
Finding Peace in Bible Truth



Genna Davis had been a Christian for about three years before finding the Amazing Facts seminar. She is truly one of God's great miracles through the ministry. Her previous church was tightly controlled, and it is often very difficult to reach into those communities with Bible truth. But God has enabled her eyes to open wide and accept His truth, and she is truly following God—and He has rewarded her searching heart ever since she gave her heart to Him.

One of the most important elements is that a friend who is also a church member supported her during the meetings. This is Genna's Amazing Facts experience in her own words.

"I was attending a Sundaykeeping church when I was invited to the Amazing Facts prophecy seminar. My pastor was very opposed to me attending, but the seminar brought me great joy and peace. This was perhaps the first time I had really studied just what *the Bible said*, and I was learning so much!

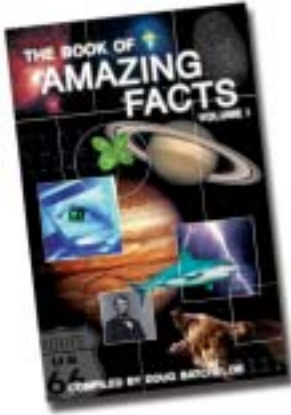


"The Sabbath was very clear to me. I knew straight away that I wanted to obey God and take that step of faith. Some of the teachings that were new to me, such as the distinction between clean and unclean foods, were confirmed in my heart by my husband, even though he hadn't attended the seminar. The Lord seemed to be guiding me all the way.

"I came up against a lot of persecution and deception though. People told me Amazing Facts didn't believe in the Godhead. Well, I knew that wasn't true. I was also told they didn't believe in the divinity of Jesus, but just from listening for myself I knew they did. This was the most biblical study I'd ever been in! I was told they didn't believe in the baptism of the Holy Spirit, but I knew they did—according to the Bible and not just human emotion. Even the teaching on jewelry and adornment was new to me, but I prayed about it and read the study material, and I knew God was leading me in that area of life.

"I am so excited. Praise the Lord for leading me. And I've been sharing all I've learned with my whole family, and they're excited about it too! And I'm thankful to my friend, Jenna, for being a great support during this time."

Genna was baptized in March a few months after John Bradshaw's Panama City, Florida, prophecy seminar.



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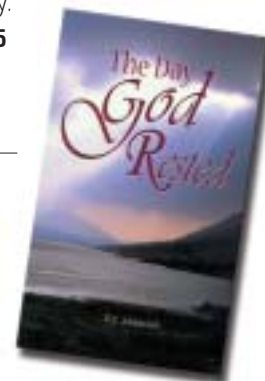
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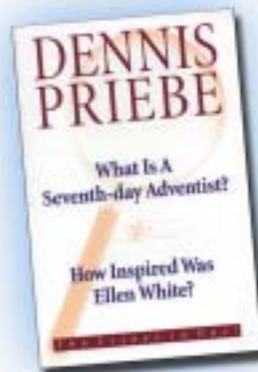
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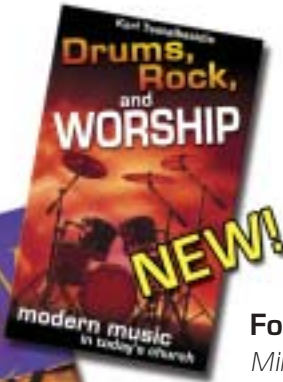
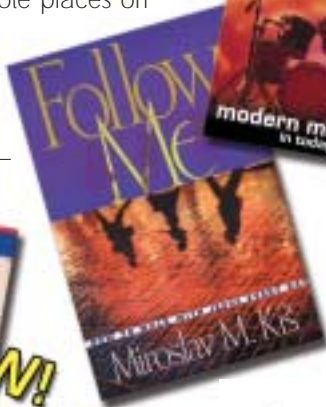
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Books

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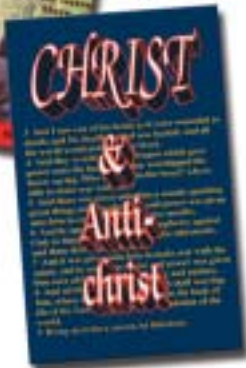
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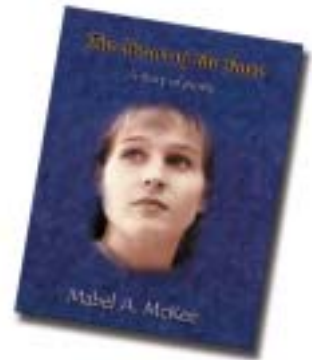
BK-BGIR ... \$8.99

When They Were Girls

Rebecca Deming Moore. What kind of homes did women like Clara Barton, Louisa May Alcott, Jane Adams, and Susan B. Anthony grow up in?

What advantages did these strong leaders have as children? Learn what it was like when they were girls.

BK-WTWG ... \$6.95



The Heart of the Rose

Mabel A. McKee. A touching story of purity that will help young and old make that commitment to await God's timing in the pursuit of a lifelong relationship.

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Jesus Shine on Me

Linda Warren. Enjoy a soothing spiritual journey in this moving collection of songs of devotion and dedication you'll listen to over and over again.

Features rich lyrics and Christian melodies, including "Jesus Shine on Me," written by Pastor Doug Batchelor.

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Various Artists. Find comfort, peace, and rest in the tranquil sounds of voices and instruments glorifying our holy Savior. A blessed collection from a unique blend of artists who strive to make their music more ministry than entertainment.

CD-QTC ... \$15.95



Esther: In the Right Place at the Right Time

Doug Batchelor. A powerful Bible story filled with prophetic symbols, the book of Esther portrays the gospel and end-times with stunning detail and accuracy. 3 audiotapes.

AD-ERP ... \$14.95

Women of Faith

Doug Batchelor. Women in the Bible hold a special place in the Christian faith. Now learn even more about the Bible's most faithful women in this new series by Pastor Doug. Follow Mary, Ruth, Jesus' mother, and the Shunammite woman on a journey of extraordinary faith. 4 audiotapes.

AD-WOF ... \$19.95



Books

Books

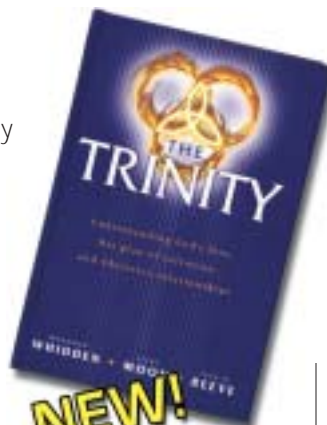


NEW!

Studies in the Book of Galatians

A.T. Jones. A comprehensive study of one of the New Testament's most misunderstood books. Find inspiring new meaning regarding God's grace in your life today.

BK-SBG ... \$12.95



NEW!

The Trinity

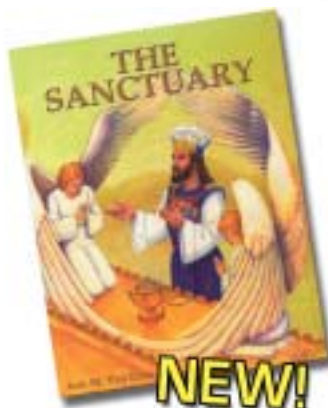
Jerry Moon, et al. The fundamental doctrine of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is under attack! But now you can have lasting reassurance and better understanding of the Godhead and its meaning in your Christian experience.

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Arla M. Van Etten. A superior resource for teaching youth and adults about God's amazing sanctuary and Jesus' work for our salvation. Full of fun activities that will make learning easy while also instilling respect for Jesus' character and sacrifice.

BK-SFC ... \$17.95

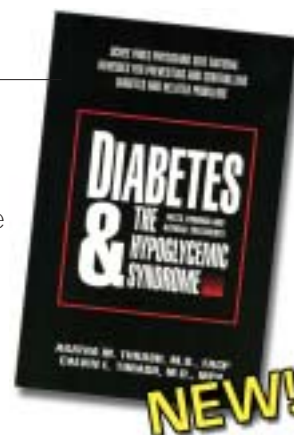


NEW!

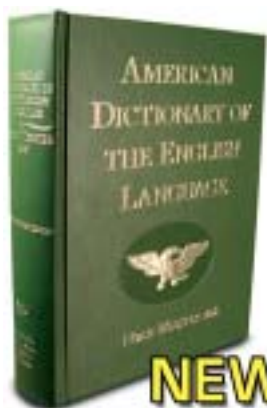
Diabetes & the Hypoglycemic Syndrome

Agatha Thrash, et al. Finally, 40 years of medical practice and new scientific knowledge come together to bring you proven, natural remedies for preventing and controlling diabetes and related problems. A perfect gift for those seeking relief.

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NEW!



NEW!

American Dictionary of the English Language

Webster considered "education useless without the Bible." It is not surprising then that his first American Dictionary contains the greatest number of biblical definitions in any reference volume. A unique, 2,000-page facsimile resource for your study library!

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Last Day Events

A brand-new compilation of E.G. White statements about the end times, including material never before published. Read about God's Last Day Church, Country Living, The Little Time of Trouble, and more in this essential collection.

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Under Siege: The Great Controversy

E.G. White. A great cosmic war is underway and growing right now as humanity rushes to the final battle between good and evil. In this new edition made especially for life after 9/11, learn God's ultimate plan for victory and how America and you play a special part.

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The Desire of Ages

Through every age, humanity has longed for happiness. But this inexpressible desire cannot be found in fame, wealth, or power—but only in one Person ... Jesus Christ. This book on 27 audio CDs is His story.

CD-DOA ... \$99.95



Millennium of Prophecy (NET '99 Audio CD Set)

Now you can listen to Pastor Doug's faith-building NET New York '99 series on CD! Play them in your car on the way to work, or pop them in your CD player at home. 26 CD set.

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The Great Controversy

The news can tell you what's happening, but this story will tell you why. This thrilling tale begins at the dawn of the Christian era, traces the rise and fall of nations and religious powers through history, and then plunges ahead into a future of promise for all who believe. It's changed millions of lives, and will change yours too! 25 audio CDs.

CD-GCS ... \$99.95



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Jim Hohnberger. The pursuit of the American dream robbed them of an authentic walk with God, so the Hohnbergers left the rat race behind to search for genuine spirituality and a simple life. An inspiring and challenging look at how to live for God's glory. New on audio CD!

CD-ETG ... \$39.95



The Seventh Day, Part 1

One of the most comprehensive presentations of the Sabbath truth ever produced for mass media. This powerful documentary will broaden your understanding and strengthen your faith. Hosted by Hal Holbrook.

VT-SD1 ... \$24.95

The Seventh Day, Part 2

Exposes the political and religious intrigue behind the Saturday-Sunday controversy in the early Christian church. Hosted by Hal Holbrook.

VT-SD2 ... \$24.95

The Seventh Day, Part 3

Go beyond the legends and myths of church history to learn how God's heroes kept the Sabbath holy despite persecution. Hosted by Hal Holbrook.

VT-SD3 ... \$24.95

The Young Age of the Earth

A powerful, up-to-date, 80-minute videotape provides convincing and revolutionary scientific evidence to support the biblical account of Creation and a global flood.

VT-YAE ... \$20.95



God of Creation

A videotape favorite from Moody, you'll see the food "factories" that plants use and peer through a telescope into the vast reaches of space, while you ponder the God who put the galaxies in place.

VT-GOC ... \$9.95



Pop Goes the Music

Frank Garlock. A stirring call for Christians to evaluate music by biblical principles and not by preference. Up-to-date video with material well documented from both communication experts and musicians.

VT-PGM ... \$24.95

BIBLE Answers



with Pastor Doug Batchelor

Does the temple need to be rebuilt before Jesus returns?

In the same way that the devil has misdirected our focus from spiritual Israel to the literal headlines and events revolving around the Jewish nation today, he has also confused people on the subject of the temple.

Most of the speculation and hopes for a rebuilt temple spring from a vague reference in 2 Thessalonians 2 dealing with the Antichrist power. "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God" (vs. 3, 4). Many say that for the Antichrist to sit in the temple, it will obviously have to be rebuilt.

Those who support this belief are known as Christian Zionists, and they include such popu-

lar writers as Grant Jeffrey, Hal Lindsey, Tim LaHaye, and John Hagee, whose combined published book sales exceed 70 million in more than 50 languages—including the popular *Left Behind* series. Their beliefs are endorsed by some of the largest theological colleges and institutions, as well as a significant portion of evangelical, charismatic, Pentecostal, and fundamentalist Christians worldwide.

However, even a cursory study of Scriptures will show the error behind this notion. To begin, we can go to 1 Chronicles 17:11, 12 to a dual prophecy concerning the temple. "And it shall come to pass . . . that I will raise up thy seed after thee, which shall be of thy sons; and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build me an house, and I will stablish his throne for ever." This is a prophecy given to King David, which clearly says his offspring will rebuild the temple. Later, in 1 Chronicles 28:6, God reaffirms to David, "Solomon thy son, he shall build my house and my courts."

This is one of the clearest examples of a dual prophecy found in Scripture. Dual prophecies in the Bible have both a physical and spiritual fulfillment. Indeed, Solomon was the son of David and he built the physical temple. But this prophecy also applies spiritually to Jesus, the true "Son of David," who was to build a temple and kingdom that was to last forever.

Jesus' prophecy that the pride of the Jewish nation, the temple, would be destroyed inspired the most intense rejection of His teaching. "And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down" (Matthew 24:1, 2).

And in Mark 14:58, Jesus says, "I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands." Of course, Jesus is making it very clear He is speaking of rebuilding a temple not out of stone and nails, but of living stones (1 Peter 2:5). Yet many refused to grasp this idea. "Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this tem-

ple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? But he spake of the temple of his body" (John 2:20, 21). Their blindness to this clear explanation was used to mock Jesus as He hung on the cross. "Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross" (Matthew 27:40). When Jesus died, the veil in the physical temple ripped in two from the top to bottom, signifying that the earthly temple no longer held meaning. A temple for sacrifice today would be as useless as it was then, and it would not be the house of God.

The New Testament is replete with the idea that the temple is the body of Jesus Himself. The next few Scriptures bear this out: Ephesians 2:19–22 says, "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God: And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." This is later affirmed by 1 Peter 2:5, which says, "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."

Sadly, even after God provides all this clear biblical evidence that His temple today is a spiritual one, many Christians are waiting for the Jews to receive a construction permit to rebuild a physical temple on site where a Muslim mosque now sits. However, there is no prophecy, promise, or commandment in the Bible that says the physical temple would ever be rebuilt after the Romans last razed it.

Amazing Facts Introduces New Stations!

RADIO

Bible Answers Live

Tennessee: WJTT 1540 AM, Jellico

Everlasting Gospel

Bermuda: ZFB 1230 AM, Prospect, Devonshire

Millennium of Prophecy

Michigan: WLCM 1390 AM, Lansing

TELEVISION

Everlasting Gospel

California: Public Access, Ch 23, La Mesa

California: DCTV, Ch 5, Davis

California: WAVE, Ch 21, Woodland

Indiana: WCTV, Ch 21, Richmond

Massachusetts: Community TV, Ch 22, Methuen

Michigan: PEGPV, Ch 2, Manistee

Vermont: FACTV, Bellows Falls

Washington: PTTV, Ch 47, Port Townsend

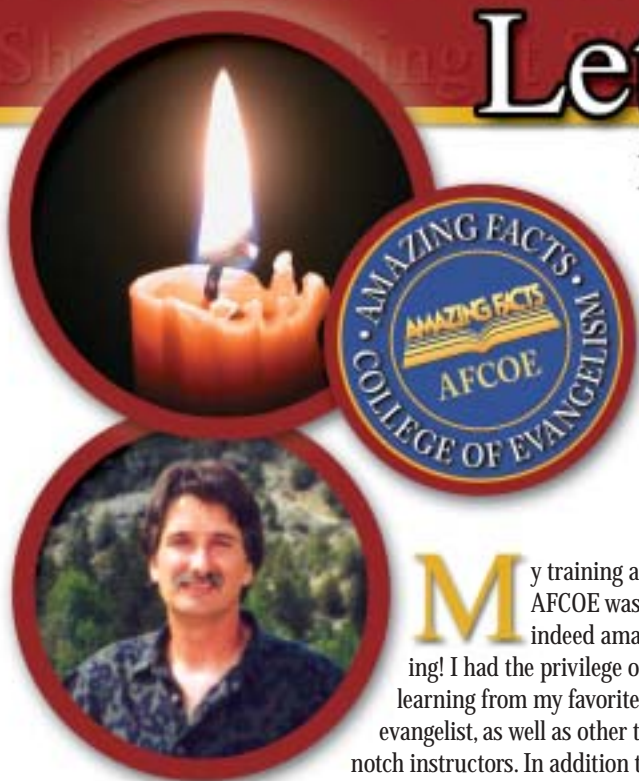
Bermuda: ZFB-TV7, Ch 7, Devonshire

Tune in Sunday nights to *Bible Answers Live*, Pastor Doug's live, nationwide call-in radio program. You'll hear biblical, straightforward answers to difficult Bible questions. To request a free program guide detailing times and stations, write or phone Amazing Facts. You can also visit our website at www.amazingfacts.org.

Letting it Shine

By Jeff Bentley

Jeff Bentley graduated from the Amazing Facts College of Evangelism (AFCOE) complete course in 2001. He writes to tell us about his experience there and what he's doing now with the training he received.



My training at AFCOE was indeed amazing! I had the privilege of learning from my favorite evangelist, as well as other top-notch instructors. In addition to classroom instruction, we went into

the local community and applied the things we learned in the homes of those whose hearts God was already working on. What a joy it was to learn new ways to lead others to Christ!

We saw many baptisms of those we worked with—and I was re-baptized! Praise the Lord! We also had a CD burning—no, we didn't get together to copy CDs; rather, we burned a pile of the devil's lies as we sang sacred songs. It was a life-changing experience, even for the editor of this magazine. Hallelujah!

For my first assignment, I worked with fellow graduates, including Rawel Moringlane (new Amazing Facts evangelist) and his wife, Eyla, for six months on a church-planting project in Peoria, Illinois. We had a wonderful time working together, and we continued to learn many new things from Pastor Robb Long. One student, Eric, chose to stay and lead the new flock that God called out of darkness. At last report, there were still more baptisms scheduled from our work there.

Next the Lord led me to accept a call to Clovis, California (near Fresno), to work as the outreach coordinator and Bible instructor for their ACTS school, which is a school similar to AFCOE. The school even utilizes the talents of guest speaker Annie Kjaer from AFCOE.

There I learned the "heaven-born" method of Bible study, also known as Bible reading. On any Bible subject, the instructor reads a question and gives a corresponding text. The student then reads the text, which answers the question, and illustrations are used to help understanding. It is so simple, yet incredibly powerful. People are amazed that the Bible really answers the questions they have. After the session ended, the Clovis church asked me to stay on as a Bible instructor and continue reaping the harvest sown by the school.

Clovis has proved to be fertile ground. One of the seeds sown is my friend Mike. When I first knocked on his door, he said that his family had other religious beliefs, but that he wanted to learn more of what the Bible teaches. We set a weekly appointment, but sometimes he was too high or drunk to study. However, he soon agreed to attend a

seminar with me. Unfortunately, his dad found out and forbade him to continue studying with me. Mike said his family was very angry with me, but we hadn't even opened the Bible yet!

Though he was worried, he still wanted to study with me. Since we couldn't study in his house, we studied God's Word in the backyard. But then that was forbidden, so Mike asked if we could meet at a park. I thought, "This man really wants to study the Bible, but the devil is doing all he can to keep it from happening!" But God soon opened a big door!

He then told me that his cousin Ronnie wanted to meet me. Some might have thought, "Uh-oh, angry family member." But I was thinking it's another potential Bible student! And guess what? We're now studying at Ronnie's house, along with Ronnie's wife, his two sons, and a friend! Is God great or what? Through it all, God kept telling me not to give up on Mike. What first looked like a shaky study to my eyes, God saw as a powerful small group study.

The Lord soon led me to write a study revealing the lengths to which Christ went to redeem us. Without a proper understanding of His willing sacrifice, people can never fully appreciate the gift. And one day, as I was walking to another house to study, I saw Mike talking to his neighbor Effrin. Suddenly, I felt the Lord telling me I needed to share the study right then!

So as I told of them of His love and showed them powerful Bible texts, I could see that the Lord was really working on Effrin. For an appeal to end this study, I asked them to close their eyes as I sang "The Savior Is Waiting." This is a powerful technique I use that really disarms and reaches my interests on a mental, spiritual, and emotional level. I told them to listen for God speaking to their hearts as I sang to them. Then I had one more question for them after they opened their eyes.

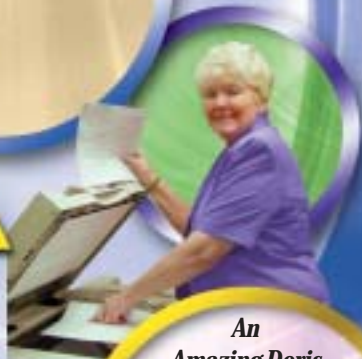
"Is there any reason why the three of us couldn't ask Jesus to come into our hearts right here, right now?" Mike replied, "There's no way Effrin will, because he's a hood!" Yet right then, bravely, Effrin jumped in and said, "Oh yes I am!" Not only did he ask Jesus to come into his heart, he asked me to come back for weekly Bible studies. Like Isaiah, I said, "Woe is me! For I am undone; . . . for mine eyes have seen the King" at work. Amen!

There were and still are many opportunities for AFCOE graduates to put their new skills to work for the Lord. The harvest is plentiful, but there are not enough laborers. —



AMAZING FACTS

...according to Doris



An Amazing Doris
Fact: Doris first maintained the entire donor file on individual 3X5 index cards! Later, the ministry transferred data to giant storage machines called "Betsy Jane" and the "Tiger."

by Anthony Lester

One of the great pleasures of having come to Amazing Facts is working with employees who have given so much of their lives to help build the ministry into a multifaceted, worldwide outreach.

And this is especially true of Doris Herrick, who had been with the ministry for nearly 25 years before health problems nudged her into an early retirement. The joy of interviewing her was subdued only by the fact that she is already deeply missed—for too many reasons to name.

Regardless, I left our short time together blessed, marveling at God's hand in the ministry, and more so in the life of His special servant Doris.

In the Beginning

God's plan for Doris is evident early in her life. On one Sunday afternoon, on a regular family drive in Spartanburg, South Carolina, her adventurous dad spotted a large revival tent and went inside to investigate. When he came out, he said simply, "I think we are going to come down here and listen to this preacher." That preacher was a Sabbathkeeping evangelist.

Says Doris, "We went the first night, and we've been going ever since." Her dad and mom continued to study this new truth, and eventually joined God's remnant church, defying family tradition and objections. He explained, "We're joining because it is the truth. It's in the Bible."

God Calls on Doris

"I came to help for only a few days, and I just never left," says Doris, who arrived on October 9, 1978, to a one-room basement office dedicated to sharing the good news. A friend had called to ask her if she could lend a helping hand. At first, Doris resisted, but her friend replied, "It won't hurt you!"

An Amazing Doris
Fact: Doris's daughter Donna has also been with Amazing Facts for more than 17 years!

Just three days later, Doris was earning \$1.25 an hour doing the Lord's work on a permanent basis. "The director came in and said, 'You're hired! And I said, 'I am?' " A year later, she received a hefty 20 percent raise!

Doris began and ended her career maintaining the donor file. Along the way, she developed close friendships with ministry supporters. "We have so many faithful donors,"

reflects Doris. "I miss the relationships with them the most." One ministry friend, Salvador, called each month to ask how she and the ministry were doing. And many supporters appreciated her attitude that "we use every nickel for the Lord."

Times of Transition

Doris recalls Joe Crews with much warmth. "He was the most Christian man I have ever seen when it came to living daily," she says. "He would talk to anyone and was always available."

Joe Crews' special vision for Amazing Facts also included his plans for its future when it was time for him to let go of the reins. "We were all crushed when he passed away," says Doris. "But he had already chosen Pastor Batchelor as his successor. Joe knew that the ministry needed someone who appealed to a diverse crowd, including younger people."

Doris believes that Joe Crews will be very happy to see what the ministry has accomplished when he is raised on resurrection day. "He didn't live to see the changes and what his ministry has become. But I feel he would be very happy."

In all, Doris has moved with the ministry three times—the biggest being the cross-country move to Sacramento, California. It was a challenging time, but it was handled with faith and lots of humor. Says Doris, "In our first office in Sacramento, we were running around like we didn't know what we were doing. Bill May walked in and said, 'If anyone here knows what they are doing, they are going to get fired!'"

"We have had our share of hard times," she continues. "But always when it looked like things were really down, the Lord provided the means to keep things going. I think it will always be that way, because this is God's ministry."

A Fruitful Life Left

Most of all, Doris expresses thanks for her time at Amazing Facts. "I'm glad that I worked here. It has definitely helped my own spiritual growth. I don't think I ever would have found anything else that I liked so well. It became my home."

For those working in ministry, she counsels, "You have to feel that you work for the Lord, and work in that way—because you are. It is serious work."

Doris will be staying in California with her husband—she enjoys the weather too much to return east. However, she would like to get some more time in with her four children, seven grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren!

"I hope to have more energy as time goes on. Maybe even come back and volunteer here. I won't be able to just sit there; I'll have to do something. Life is meant to be busy." —

An Amazing Doris
Fact: Doris attended college with Amazing Facts founder Joe Crews!

BEHIND THE SCENES



Visions for Life: Korea

In November 2003, Amazing Facts will present the gospel of Jesus Christ to the spiritually hungry

people of Korea. As the drums of war begin to beat loudly, the ministry feels God's call to go and boldly spread His message to these precious souls before time runs out.

Working with ATN, AMP, and the Korean Church, the ministry is incorporating the successful technologies from the 2002 African *Visions for Life* and will beam the message of hope to the entire Pacific Rim as far south as Australia and New Zealand to as far north as Russia. More than 400 downlink sites are already being prepared to spread the three angels' messages to a potentially vast audience of searching souls.

Similar to the African outreach, Pastor Doug Batchelor will teach from the *Storacles of Prophecy* lessons with an interpreter on stage. Languages other than English and Korean are also being accommodated for the international broadcast.

Amazingly, the cost to the ministry is relatively minimal, as an energized local church has already acquired sufficient funds for pre-work, local advertising, and providing a venue. However, Amazing Facts still needs your help for satellite program productions, preparations and planning, travel, and other costs. To reach 22 nations and most of the islands of the Pacific with the three angels' messages, it will cost \$250,000.

We're asking our friends to help with the projected cost. If you feel the Lord touching your heart for the wonderful people of Korea, especially in such troubling times, we ask that you call us at 916-434-3880. Please pray also as the initial planning is ongoing.

And see future *Inside Reports* for more information on this exciting soul-winning project.



Sarah Brandauer Joins the Bible School

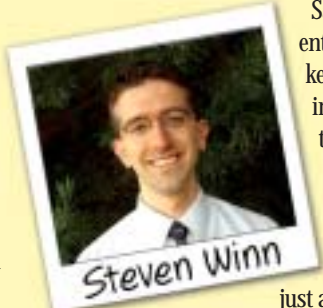
The Bible School enthusiastically welcomed Sarah Brandauer as a secretary and data entry clerk in November 2002. She maintains student records, enrolls students, packs lessons, helps network graduates with the church, and offers technical support to online Bible students.

Sarah was blessed by wonderful parents who raised her in the Sabbath-keeping faith. She currently resides in Weimar, California. She also went to school at Weimar Institute and worked there in various capacities prior to joining Amazing Facts.

Sarah explains, "I had been praying about finding a new job, and just a week later I received a call from

the ministry requesting an interview. I was soon hired without even having to look for a job!"

When not working, Sarah enjoys gardening, cooking, reading, and exploring nature. About her work here, Sarah says, "I wish to reflect Christ to all who I come in contact with and to be a part of finishing the work."



Amazing Facts Welcomes Steven Winn

Steven Winn joined the Amazing Facts Data Processing team in January, where he processes donations, sales orders, and prayer requests. In addition, he works in employee training, writing procedures, and teaching classes.

Graduating from Pacific Union College in 1997 with a B.A. in Communication, he has worked most recently in the telecommunications industry as a zoning coordinator. Born into God's end-time church, he is continually inspired by the incredible conversion stories of his co-workers. "I've been taught the *facts*, now God is using my co-workers to show me the *amazing*."

When away from the office, he enjoys volunteering his time with the Media Department, operating television cameras, and directing camera shoots for the *Central Study Hour* and *Everlasting Gospel* programs. Steve says with a smile, "I've clearly seen the hand of God in the twists and turns leading me to Amazing Facts, and I really am finding fulfillment in working more directly in the spreading of the gospel."

WANTED: USED COMPUTERS

Aspiring evangelists from around the world have come to AFCOE at great personal expense to learn how to successfully teach God's Word. Yet many of our students still need important resources to do the Lord's work effectively. That's where you can help.

If you have an aging computer or laptop, software (such as PowerPoint), projectors, felt sets, picture rolls, books, or other evangelistic supplies to donate, please contact AFCOE at 916-434-3880, ext. 3049.

Your donation may be tax-deductible, so check with your tax advisor. We will send you a receipt for your donation.



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Giving Thanks

Bible School Testimonies



Here are just a few of the beautiful testimonies we have received from people who have been touched by our Bible Correspondence School and online Bible studies at www.amazingfacts.org and www.bibleuniverse.com. We thank our Father in heaven, and you too, for making all these changed lives possible.

Thanking God, the Real Hero

*"I would like to thank all those who have made this Bible study website possible, especially God who makes all things possible. This study has answered so many questions and has brought me closer to God, shedding so much light on His Word. You are doing great things in people's lives; this study has made a great difference in mine."*M.H., New York

Deepening Relationships

*"Thank you for the opportunity to take your Bible study course. I surely enjoyed my time with God. My relationship with my Savior has truly deepened. May the Lord bless all your staff for the work they are doing."*A.F., Arizona

*"I am eager to start practicing all that I have learned so far. I never used to keep the Sabbath, but now I am convinced. It brings great joy to my heart to know more about God and His Word."*I.Y., Maine

Changing Lives

*"I want to tell you that the Bible Study Guides that you send me have been the most important experience of my life. They have been the instruments to really lead my life into the presence of Jesus and my lifestyle is changed forever. You have been my brothers and sisters in the spirit and one day I am going to see you in heaven."*E.G., South Carolina

*"I have been enlightened about many truths and have made many changes. They meant a lot, and I'm glad for the opportunity. I have also been baptized and have joined a Sabbathkeeping church."*R.C., Puerto Rico

*"I have learned a lot from these lessons. I am glad to announce that this day I made Jesus the Lord of my life."*J.S., e-mail

Clearing Up the Confusion

*"These lessons have helped me to open up God's Word and to correct some things not understood by me for many years. God has used these lessons to meet a special need in my life. God has used these and begun a great healing in me."*M., Virginia

*"I truly enjoyed your Study Guides, and I can say they are God-sent. I have been in a lot of confusion for a very long time, but after studying your guides and comparing them with Scripture, I have a greater understanding of life and the life to come."*L.W., Montana

*"I have a better grasp on what the Bible says. Also, this course has helped explain some things that I have grown up with but never understood."*J.P., e-mail

Sharing With Others

*"As a minister, I have thoroughly enjoyed this study. I have learned a tremendous amount of very useful knowledge that I know I will be able to use in my sermons. Thank you!"*R.W., Tennessee

*"Thank you so much for making it possible for me to find the truth in the Holy Scriptures. They have confirmed some of the truths that I have thought true for quite some time. I will be sharing the truth from your Study Guides with friends and family."*P.O., South Carolina

Easy Access

*"I so enjoy my daily studies with this program that I tell those around me about it all the time. I can share what I learn with my daughters and others. It has been good. I thank God for my computer so that I can have access to this program."*C.D., Canada

Praising the Quality

*"I really think that offering certificates and diplomas are a great incentive because it makes one feel great about their accomplishments and at the same time learn about our heavenly Father and His Son."*R.C., e-mail

*"A million thank yous for your Bible course. I am learning many things about myself and God's plan for me. I know with Him in my life I can turn this short stay in prison into a one-time trip. I really enjoyed lesson #4. Heaven seems like an awesome place. The writers have really brought it to life!"*W.C., California

Opening Eyes

*"God has opened my eyes to new directions; your lessons are very well done, clear and to the point, with many Scriptures to back up what you teach."*G.M., New York

*"I would like to thank Amazing Facts for all of the information you have made available to me. I was one of those people who was asleep, but the message you have shown me has opened my eyes. I am currently working as a jailer, and I have been sharing everything I have been learning with the inmates, and they are very interested."*R.P., Texas

Making a Difference

*"I'd like to say a few things to the group who took the time and effort to grade my papers. My life has been very rough and not very fulfilling. It makes my heart feel good that people like you take the time to give these free lessons. It means there are good people in this world. Thank you for being a friend in my time of need. May God be with you in all that you do."*T.T., Tennessee





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In Honor of

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Health Bite

Water for Life

Are you suffering from fatigue and want more energy? Do you feel depressed or too stressed? Are you interested in losing weight and/or controlling your appetite? Do you suffer from dry skin, indigestion, backaches, or headaches?

Then drinking more water might be the solution, at least partly. And that's a good thing, because it's the most abundant element on earth, and it's exactly what it takes to carry on all life. Humans can go weeks without food, but only a few days without water. That means it's only second to air in ensuring life, and even then, we need water to breathe!

It's common knowledge that water makes up between 70 and 80 percent of our bodies—your blood and your brain are 90 percent H₂O! Your cells need it to do everything they're assigned by God, and your kidneys use it to filter out harmful elements. It also helps to lubricate our joints, metabolize fat, keep the brain thinking, and a host of other life-sustaining processes.

Genesis 1:2

That's how far you have to read into the Bible to see the word "water," and it's mentioned more than 600 times in various contexts throughout. It's probably a good indication that enough water in your body was an ideal God set from the beginning. Being hydrated even helps the mind discern evil and avoid temptation. Lack of enough water can cause a small but critical shrinkage of the brain that can hamper neuromuscular coordination, decrease concentration, and slow your thinking.

It's also a great way to help control your physical body—as more water consumption typically results in less food consumption. In addition, drinking water only will significantly reduce the daily calories you consume when drinking juice, soft drinks, and milk.

How much is enough?

There are several ideas about how much water we need to consume to maintain good health. One rule of thumb is eight ounces a day for every 25 pounds of body weight. You should check with your doctor before changing your diet, but it's a fact that for most people, more water will greatly benefit their health.

Your body recycles water in a way only God could have devised, but you will naturally lose water through breathing, sweating, and elimination. To avoid losing excess water, stay away from alcohol, caffeine, and sugar, which slow the absorption of water.



Living Water

This human need for water is exactly why Jesus is called the Water of Life who can bring spiritual healing, energy, renewal, and strength. That's how important water is to human life, and why God chose it as a symbol of something even more important.

"Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water" (John 4:10).

An Amazing Fact

How many baths does a rainstorm produce? If your house sits on a half-acre lot and a storm pours down an inch of rain, your yard has been drenched by nearly 13,600 gallons of water. If you could save that inch and use it for your bathtub of 50 gallons, you would have 271 baths. But don't use it all at once; that water weighs more than 56 tons!

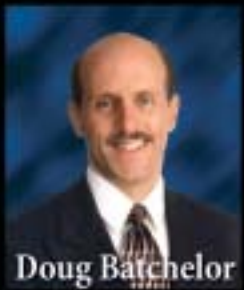
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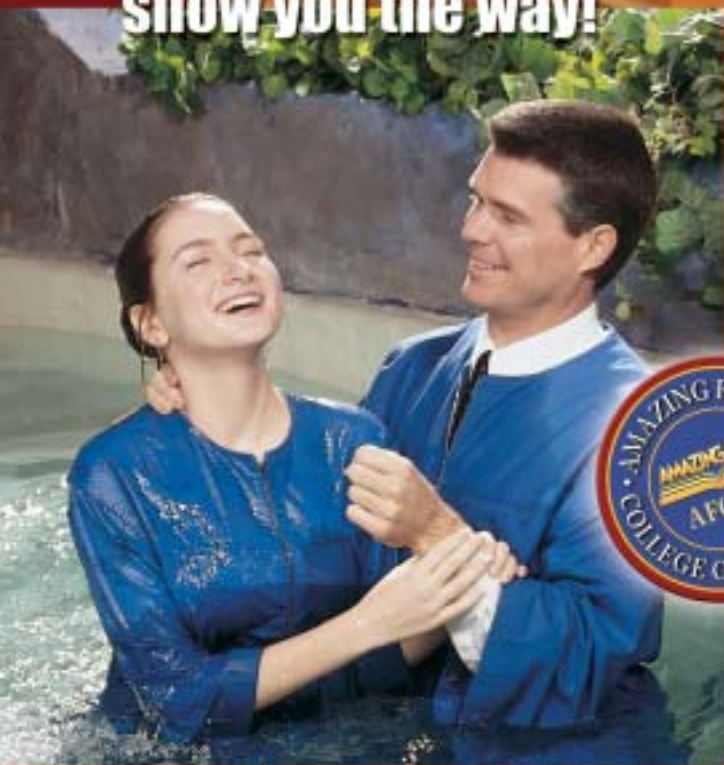
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